

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DIWY-01 CU-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - UNDP: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 72386

1. EMBOFF RECENTLY DISCUSSED UNDP PROGRAM WITH UNDP REP HUGO NAVAJAS MOGRO AND DEPUTY UNDP REP SARAH TIMPSON. FOLLOWING COMMENTS BASED THAT CONVERSATION AND OUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF UNDP OPERATIONS HERE.

2. COORDINATION. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN ARGENTINA RELATIVELY LIMITED. THEREFORE, COORDINATION JOB FOR UNDP RES REP NOT AS SIGNIFICANT A PROBLEM AS EXISTS IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. RES REP EMPHASIZED UNDP ACTIVELY SEEKING INCREASED COORDINATION WITH LOCAL IDB OFFICE WITH OBJECTIVE FACILITATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NECESSARY FOR IDB PROJECT PREPARATION. IN BUENOS AIRES, OFFICES OF UNDP RES REP AND THOSE OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY REPS ARE TOGETHER IN SPACE DONATED BY GOA. RES REP BELIEVES THIS ARRANGEMENTS HAS WORKED WELL. GOA OFFICE WHICH COORDINATES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS CALLED AREA OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. RES REP SAID THIS OFFICE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED DURING 1975 (BOTH QUALITY AND QUANTITY),

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GREATLY FACILITATING PROJECT COORDINATION.

3. FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS. U.S. RES REP SAID UNDP EFFORTS CONCENTRATE RESOURCES IN HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS AND REDUCE FRAGMENTATION HAD BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE POINTED OUT NUMBER OF UNDP PROJECTS REDUCED FROM OVER 120 TO AROUND 60. RES REP SAID FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS HAD FACILITATED TASK OF ELIMINATING LOWER PRIORITY PROJECTS AND FENDING OFF REQUESTS FOR NEW ONES. NONETHELESS, HE CONCERNED THAT FINANCIAL SITUATION WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT PROGRAM FOR THIS YEAR AND FUTURE. HE POINTED OUT NEW MILITARY GOVT HAD STRONG DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION AND WOULD LIKELY PRESS FOR EXPANDED TA PROGRAM. AS RESULT FINANCIAL SITUATION, MANY WORTHWHILE PROJECTS THIS YEAR WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED; DISBURSEMENTS THIS YEAR LIKELY REDUCED FROM ANTICIPATED LEVEL \$7.5 MILLION TO AROUND \$5.5 MILLION.

4. COUNTRY PROGRAM. RES REP SAID NEW UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR 1977-81 UNDER ACTIVE PLANNING BETWEEN UNDP AND GOA FOR MANY MONTHS. HE SAID MAJOR CHANGE IN THIS PROGRAMMING PROCESS, COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS ONE, IS GREAT REDUCTION RED TAPE WHICH FACILITATING WORK. RES REP NOTED IMPROVED CAPABILITY OF GOA INTERNATONAL ORGANIZATION, AND GREATER FAMILIARITY WITH UN PROCEDURES, AS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING RES REP, KEY PRIORITIES IN NEW UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS WITH GOOD INVESTMENT POTENTIAL. EMBOFF FOUND NO INDICATION REVIEW PROCESS FIRST UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM VERY FAR ALONG.

5. PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. AFTER SOME INITIAL DIFFICULTIES, TRIPARTITE REVIEW PROCESS NOW FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY ACCORDING LOCAL RES REP. HE SAID AT LEAST 15 SPECIFIC PROJECTS HAD NOW BEEN REVIEWED UNDER THIS MECHANISM. RES REP THOUGHT HYDROLOGICAL CENTER, MINERAL SURVEY EFFORTS, AND SEVERAL PROJECTS WITH NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (INTA) WERE AMONG MOST SUCCESSFUL UNDP PROJECTS HERE.

6. APPRAISAL. EMBASSY HAS ENDEAVORED MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIAISON WITH UNDP RES REP. NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR UNDP FUNDING DISTRIBUTED TO EMBASSY. PROJECTS HAVE BEEN NOTED BUT PERSONNEL SHORTAGES HERE MAKE DETAILED REVIEW IMPRACTICAL.

7. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. DEPUTY RES REP, A WOMAN, FELT SOME PROGRESS MADE IN THIS AREA BUT POINTED OUT NUMBER OF WOMEN IN "EXPERT CAPACITIES" STILL VERY LIMITED. SHE NOTED 3 WOMEN NOW EMPLOYED IN GOA OFFICE HANDLING TA

LIAISON. DEPUTY RES REP THOUGHT UN CONFERENCE ON ROLE
OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, RECENTLY HELD IN BUENOS AIRES,
GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE BUT SAW NO SPECIFIC IMPACT ON
UNDP PROGRAM HERE.
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